



Jobs Act for Public K-12 & Higher Education Institutions

Wenatchee Valley College

About the Jobs Act:

The Jobs Act for Public K-12 and Higher Education Institutions was funded through the 2010 Supplemental Capital Budget – ESHB 2836 Section 1016. \$50 million was given to Commerce. Commerce awarded 77 grants totaling \$42.5 million. Wenatchee Valley College is located in the 12th Legislative District. For more information:

www.commerce.wa.gov

Contact:

**Dan Aarthun, Manager
Capital Programs**
360.725.3007
dan.aarthun@commerce.wa.gov

Trash – out of sight and out of mind

Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) enriches North Central Washington by serving educational and cultural needs of communities and residents. The college provides high-quality transfer, liberal arts, professional/technical, basic skills, and continuing education. Over 8,000 students attend the college annually.

Situation:

Trash wasn't top-of-mind for WVC's students, faculty, and staff. Classroom and office trash cans were emptied every day by the operations and maintenance staff. And the college's large dumpsters were emptied automatically one or three times a week by the local waste company. Trash was out of sight and out of mind.

Solution:

But trash was never out of sight or out of mind for Suzie Benson, vice president of Administrative Services and Greg Randall, manager of Facilities and Operations. They were always thinking about how to reduce the amount of labor involved with collecting trash and the college's trash bill. They knew a trash compactor and cardboard bailer would help them do just that.

Project Highlights:

- *Installed new interior and exterior lighting*
- *Purchased a trash compactor and cardboard bailing machine*
- *Installed water saving measures – low-flow toilets, urinals, and faucet aerators*
- *Estimated annual energy and water savings \$25,485*

"We had been wanting a trash compactor and a bailer for a long time, but with state funds shrinking, we only have operating funds for the most critical or urgent repairs." said Benson. Then WVC received a Jobs Act grant.



“We simply couldn’t have done the work without the Jobs Act grant.”

Suzie Benson

Vice-President of Administrative Services

“The grant was exactly what we needed,” said Benson. “We simply couldn’t have done the work without the Jobs Act grant.”

The trash compactor and bailer were purchased immediately. The trash compactor is a 25-yard unit that compacts and holds the entire campus’ trash for one month. Before WVC had the trash compactor, their trash was collected one or three times a week by the local waste company. “Our dumpsters were emptied automatically whether they were full or empty,” said Randall. Now, the local waste company only visits WVC once a month.

The college produces about 2000 pounds of cardboard and mixed paper monthly. The college used to haul all of this recyclable material every seven or 10 days to the local recycler. Now, because of the bailer, the college’s maintenance and operations staff make this trip once a month.

The Jobs Act grant also allowed WVC to improve their lighting, plumbing, toilets, urinals, and faucets.

WVC had many classrooms and administrative offices that were either under lit or over lit. A lighting audit identified locations where the college had old incandescent lights, metal halide fixtures, and old fluorescent lamps with magnetic ballasts. Replacing the old lighting and correcting the over lit and under lit spaces provided the college with a new learning environment.

“The brighter lighting makes the classrooms and offices much more inviting, especially in spaces with no windows and natural day lighting,” said Randall. “The rooms are much easier for people to work in now,” he said.

The majority of WVC’s plumbing was from the 1950s. Installing new low-flow toilets, urinals, and faucet aerators significantly reduced their water consumption.” Before we installed the new water saving measures, there was a lot of waste,” said Benson.

Results:

WVC immediately started benefiting from their trash compactor and

cardboard bailer. They reduced both staff time used to collect and transport recyclable materials and the amount of gasoline used going back and forth from the college to the local recycler. Their bill to the local waste company decreased. Reducing the number of times the local waste company comes to the campus means less wear and tear on public roads.

All together the new equipment is expected to save \$25,000 annually.

WVC plans on using the savings to pay off their state loan. “Once the loan is paid off, the savings will ease our utility budget,” said Benson.

Measures:

- *Lighting*
- *Water conservation – low-flow toilets, urinals, and faucet aerators*
- *Trash compactor and cardboard bailer*

Total project costs: \$585,040

Estimated annual energy and water savings: \$25,485

Grant award amount: \$320,000